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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

13 TOM SCOCCA, MADISON
14 SOCIETY, INC., and THE
CALGUNS FOUNDATION, INC.,

Plaintiffs.

vs.

SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH (In her individual and official capacity.), COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, and DOES 1 to 20.

Defendants.

Case No.: CV 11 01318 EMC

PLAINTIFFS' SUPPLEMENT BRIEF

Date: November 15, 2012
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Courtroom: 5, 17th Floor
Judge: Hon. Edward M. Chen

22 Pursuant to this Court's verbal order made during the hearing on November 15,
23 2012, Plaintiffs hereby file this Supplemental Brief on the issue of immunity for
24 SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH:

25 During the hearing on Defendants' Motion to Dismiss, two kinds of immunity
26 were discussed with respect to Defendant SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH: (1) Qualified
27 Immunity as against money damages, in her capacity as an individual defendant,
28 and (2) Eleventh Amendment Immunity.

1 **A. Defendant SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH is Not Entitled**
 2 **to Qualified Immunity.**

3 As was briefed by the Plaintiffs in their opposition memorandum, the requisite
 4 “notice” that a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment’s “equal protection” clause is
 5 unconstitutional, specifically with respect to the issuance of Concealed Carry
 6 Permits (A.K.A. License to Carry) by county sheriffs – and therefore not susceptible
 7 to a qualified immunity defense – is well settled law in this Circuit. *Guillory v. City*
 8 *of Orange*, 731 F.2d 1379 (9th Cir. 1984).

9

10 **B. Defendant SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH is Not Entitled**
 11 **to Eleventh Amendment Immunity.**

12 The Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution states that “[t]he
 13 Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in
 14 law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by
 15 Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.” U.S.
 16 Const. amend. XI. “The Amendment . . . enacts a sovereign immunity from suit,
 17 rather than a nonwaivable limit on the Federal Judiciary’s subject-matter
 18 jurisdiction.” *Idaho v. Coeur d’Alene Tribe of Idaho*, 521 U.S. 261, 267 (1997).

19 The Eleventh Amendment bars suits against state agencies, as well as those
 20 where the state itself is named as a defendant. See *P.R. Aqueduct & Sewer Auth. v. Metcalf & Eddy, Inc.*, 506 U.S. 139, 144 (1993); *Beentjes v. Placer Cnty. Air Pollution Control Dist.*, 397 F.3d 775, 777 (9th Cir. 2005); *Savage v. Glendale Union High Sch.*, 343 F.3d 1036, 1040 (9th Cir. 2003); see also *Lucas v. Dep’t of Corr.*, 66 F.3d 245, 248 (9th Cir. 1995) (per curiam) (stating that Board of Corrections is agency entitled to immunity); *Taylor v. List*, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989) (concluding that Nevada Department of Prisons was a state agency entitled to Eleventh Amendment immunity); cf. *Leer v. Murphy*, 844 F.2d 628, 631 (9th Cir. 1988) (stating that Eleventh Amendment requires examination of the complaint

1 and relief sought to determine whether the state is the “real party in interest”);
 2 *Greater L.A. Council on Deafness, Inc. v. Zolin*, 812 F.2d 1103, 1110 (9th Cir. 1987)
 3 (same). The Eleventh Amendment also bars damages actions against state officials
 4 in their official capacity, see *Flint v. Dennison*, 488 F.3d 816, 824-25 (9th Cir. 2007);
 5 *Doe v. Lawrence Livermore Nat'l Lab.*, 131 F.3d 836, 839 (9th Cir. 1997); *Eaglesmith*
 6 *v. Ward*, 73 F.3d 857, 859 (9th Cir. 1995); and *Pena v. Gardner*, 976 F.2d 469, 472
 7 (9th Cir. 1992) (per curiam).

8 However, under the doctrine of *Ex Parte Young*, 209 U.S. 123 (1908), and critical
 9 to an adjudication of this case, the Eleventh Amendment **does not** bar suits for
 10 **prospective declaratory or injunctive relief** against state officials in their
 11 official capacity. See *Idaho v. Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Idaho*, 521 U.S. 261, 269
 12 (1997); *Pennhurst State Sch. & Hosp. v. Halderman*, 465 U.S. 89, 102-06 (1984);
 13 *Flint v. Dennison*, 488 F.3d 816, 825 (9th Cir. 2007); *Doe v. Lawrence Livermore*
 14 *Nat'l Lab.*, 131 F.3d 836, 839 (9th Cir. 1997); *Armstrong v. Wilson*, 124 F.3d 1019,
 15 1025 (9th Cir. 1997).

16 The most practical way to adjudicate of this Eleventh Amendment immunity
 17 issue would be to focus on the Plaintiffs' prayers for injunctive and/or declaratory
 18 relief. Under the *Ex Parte Young* doctrine, the suit goes forward – at least with
 19 respect to injunctive/declaratory relief – against SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH
 20 regardless of whether he is a county official or state official.

21 Furthermore, the Eleventh Amendment does not bar suits seeking damages
 22 against state officials in their personal or individual capacity. See *Hafer v. Melo*,
 23 502 U.S. 21, 30-31 (1991); *Porter v. Jones*, 319 F.3d 483, 491 (9th Cir. 2003); *Ashker*
 24 *v. Cal. Dep't of Corr.*, 112 F.3d 392, 394-95 (9th Cir. 1997); *Pena v. Gardner*, 976
 25 F.2d 469, 472 (9th Cir. 1992) (per curiam).

26 So even if this Court were to rule against circuit precedent and find that
 27 SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH, in her personal/individual capacity, enjoys qualified
 28 immunity from a money damages claim under an “equal protection” theory of

1 liability, then it doesn't matter if she is a county official or state official. But if she
 2 doesn't enjoy qualified immunity, then the Eleventh Amendment is not a shield
 3 against a money damages claim when she is sued in her personal/individual
 4 capacity regardless of her status as a county official or state official.

5 More to the point, the fact that SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH is one of only two
 6 officials with the power to implement state law with respect to issuance of
 7 Concealed Carry Permits (A.K.A. Licenses to Carry)¹ does not grant her the status
 8 of an official working for the State of California. And comparing county sheriffs to
 9 county district attorneys, just because both are locally elected at the county level, is
 10 an "apples to oranges" fallacy.

11 First, District Attorneys do not need the Eleventh Amendment because their
 12 immunity is derived from their official role as an advocate for the state performing
 13 functions "**intimately associated with the judicial phase of the criminal**
process." *Imbler v. Pachtman*, 424 U.S. 409, 430 (1976); see also *Van de Kamp v.*
 15 *Goldstein*, 555 U.S. 335, 129 S. Ct. 855, 860-61 (2009) (giving examples where
 16 absolute immunity has applied, including when a prosecutor prepares to initiate a
 17 judicial proceeding, or appears in court to present evidence in support of an
 18 application for a search warrant); *Ewing v. City of Stockton*, 588 F.3d 1218, 1232-33
 19 (9th Cir. 2009); *Kalina v. Fletcher*, 522 U.S. 118, 124-26 (1997); *Botello v. Gammick*,
 20 413 F.3d 971, 975 (9th Cir. 2005); *Genzler v. Longanbach*, 410 F.3d 630, 636-37 (9th
 21 Cir. 2005); *KRL v. Moore*, 384 F.3d 1105, 1110 (9th Cir. 2004); *Broam v. Bogan*, 320
 22 F.3d 1023, 1028 (9th Cir. 2003). In other words, a district attorney's immunity is
 23 derived from their connection with the judicial process. By no stretch of the
 24 imagination is the issuance of a permit to carry a concealed firearm a judicial
 25 function connected with the prosecution of crimes.

26 Second, even prosecutorial immunity does not extend to those actions of a
 27

28 ¹ The other being Chiefs of Police. CA Penal Code § 26155.

1 prosecutor which are “administrative” or “investigative” in nature. See *Van de*
 2 *Kamp*, 129 S. Ct. at 861 (explaining that prosecutorial immunity does not apply, for
 3 example, when prosecutor gives advice to police during a criminal investigation,
 4 makes statements to the press, or acts as a complaining witness in support of a
 5 warrant application); *Hartman v. Moore*, 547 U.S. 250, 261-62 n.8 (2006); *Buckley v.*
 6 *Fitzsimmons*, 509 U.S. 259, 271-73 (1993); *Waggy v. Spokane County Washington*,
 7 594 F.3d 707, 710-11 (9th Cir. 2010); *Cousins v. Lockyer*, 568 F.3d 1063, 1068 (9th
 8 Cir. 2009); *Botello*, 413 F.3d at 975-76; *Genzler*, 410 F.3d at 636.

9 The processes that a sheriff administers when granting (or denying) Concealed
 10 Carry Permits (A.K.A. Licenses to Carry) is more like these administrative and/or
 11 investigative actions. To reiterate, Plaintiffs are NOT challenging state law. They
 12 are challenging a local government official’s implementation (on equal protection
 13 grounds) of state law in the administration of a permit process that merely
 14 requires:²

- 15 a. Proof of good moral character of the applicant,
- 16 b. Proof of good cause by the applicant,
- 17 c. Proof that the applicant either:
 - 18 i. Is a resident of the county or a city within the county, or
 - 19 ii. Spends a substantial period of time in a principal place of
 - 20 employment or business in the county,
- 21 d. Proof of successful completion of a course of training that shall not
- 22 exceed 16 hours,
- 23 e. Completion of a criminal background check,
- 24 f. Payment of a statutorily defined fee.

25 Which brings us back to the argument that SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH is either
 26 (A) not immune under ANY theory against a remedy of prospective injunctive
 27

28 ² California Penal Code §§ 17020, 26150-26225.

1 and/or declaratory relief, regardless of her status as a state official or county
 2 official, or (B) she is not immune under ANY theory against a claim for damages in
 3 her individual capacity – unless she is entitled to qualified immunity defense which
 4 is a completely separate issue.

5 Finally, the suggestion that county sheriffs “share state power” with the
 6 California Department of Justice because that agency can summarily stop the
 7 issuance of a Concealed Carry Permit (A.K.A. License to Carry) or revoke an
 8 existing license when it learns that the licensee is “*prohibited by state or federal law*
 9 *from possessing, receiving, owning or purchasing a firearms*” [CA Penal Code §
 10 26195] should be of no avail to Defendant SMITH.

11 This is merely a categorical determination of an licensee’s ineligibility to exercise
 12 the “right to keep and bear arms” in any capacity. And while the California
 13 Department of Justice (DOJ) has the power under this statute to declare someone
 14 ineligible, or to revoke an existing license, there is no statutory authority that
 15 permits the DOJ to grant a permit for any reason, or to deny a permit on any basis
 16 other ineligibility to even possess – let alone carry in public – a firearm. That
 17 discretionary power, subject to an equal protection test, resides solely with county
 18 sheriffs and chiefs of police. CA Penal Code §§ 26150, 26155. If anything, the DOJ
 19 is only share a “slice of power” with the sheriffs and police chiefs who control the
 20 lion’s share of this awesome power over the “right to keep and bear arms” for the
 21 purpose of self-defense in public places.

22 Besides, Eleventh Amendment immunity does not protect local governmental
 23 bodies (counties, cities, etc.), even though such entities enjoy a 'slice of state power.'
 24 *Lake Country Estates, Inc. v. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency* (1979) 440 U.S. 391,
 25 401, 99 S.Ct. 1171, 1177; *Northern Ins. Co. of New York v. Chatham County, Ga.*
 26 (2006) 547 U.S. 189, 193, 126 S.Ct. 1689, 1693.

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CONCLUSION

Defendant SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH is not entitled to immunity under any theory. This Court should deny Defendants' motion to dismiss in its entirety and enter an order (if so inclined) staying this matter until resolution of the *Richards* and *Peruta* cases which are now set for oral argument on December 6, 2012 in the Ninth Circuit.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Dated: November 15, 2012,

/s/ Donald Kilmer

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